

Frequently Asked Questions about H1N1 Vaccine and Public Clinics:

- **Will children under 18 years need consent from their parent to get the H1N1 vaccine?**

Yes. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can give consent.

Will screening questions be asked of the patient or parent before the vaccine is given at the public clinic?

Yes.

These questions are about contraindications to the vaccine such as “Are you allergic to eggs and how severely allergic are you?”

In addition, questions will be asked to determine if the person belongs to the groups for whom the vaccine is presently recommended.

- **Will people above the age of 65 years with an underlying illness such as emphysema, diabetes or cancer receive the H1N1 vaccine?**

At this time, only people in the first 5 priority groups (for details please see information on the top of this website) will be receiving the H1N1 vaccine.

This is due to the limited supply of vaccine and the higher risk of infection in the younger age group. Once the vaccine is available in adequate amounts all people will be vaccinated.

- **Will there be a separate line for people with special needs?**

Yes. The organizers at the clinic will assist people with special needs to find that line.

- **What types of vaccines will be administered?**

Three types of vaccines for the H1N1 Flu will be administered.

- The nasal vaccine will be given to healthy children and adults between the ages of 2-49 years.
- The injectable vaccine will be administered to people in whom the nasal vaccine is contraindicated
- The preservative free injectable vaccine will be available in limited quantities (see question below) and will only be given to pregnant women and children less than 3 years old.

- **Will H1N1 preservative free vaccine be available at the public clinics?**

Yes, but in limited quantities.

It is important to know that on October 29, 2009, Dr. Daines, the Commissioner of Health in New York State, authorized the use of influenza vaccines that contain the preservative thimerosal in children under 3 years and in pregnant women until May 1, 2010. The reason for this authorization is the insufficient amounts of both seasonal and H1N1 vaccines to respond to disease outbreaks. Both pregnant women and

children under five have a higher chance to be hospitalized if they get the H1N1 Flu.

At any time, the risk is in the disease, not the vaccine. Both thimerosal-containing and thimerosal free vaccines are safe and effective.

Are the clinics only for Monroe County residents?

Yes. Because the amount of vaccine a county receives is based on its population, Monroe County's clinics are for Monroe County residents.

If I've already had H1N1 influenza, do I need to get an H1N1 flu shot?

If you had lab-confirmed H1N1 flu, you do not need to get an H1N1 flu shot. However, most people who were told by their doctors that they had H1N1 flu were not tested specifically for H1N1 influenza. Even if you did have H1N1 influenza, there is no harm in receiving H1N1 vaccine.